Penal Code needs to be resolved as the former permits political parties and all other bodies or associations or individuals to make election expenses for any candidate without his authorisation whereas the latter prohibits it.

5. *Empowering of the Election Commission of India to fix Ceiling on Election Expenses before every general election:* Periodic revision of election expenses may continue to be done by the Central Government in consultation with the Election Commission of India as at present.

Proposals on Himachal Pradesh Cooperative Societies

*20. SHRIMATI CHANDRESH KUMARI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some proposals on the Himachal Pradesh Cooperative Societies are lying pending with the Reserve Bank of India for a long time;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Govt. propose to issue instructions to the RBI to accord approval to these proposals; and

(d) if so, details thereof and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) to (d) The Hon'ble Member is presumably referring to the Draft Himachal Pradesh Cooperative Societies Bill, 1997 which was referred to Reserve Bank of India (RBI) by Government of India in August 1997 for comments on the constitutional validity of the Bill, conflict with existing Central Laws, and deviation, if any, from existing national or central policy which may be a hindrance to enactment of uniform laws for the country. The views of the RBI have been conveyed to the Ministry of Home Affairs who have since conveyed the same to the State Government in September, 1998.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Indigenous Production of 100 seater Planes

1. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to undertake Indigenous production of 100 seater passenger planes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how the cost of fuel would be met with a 100 seater passenger plane; and

(d) the number of aircraft proposed to be manufactured and the factory that will manufacture the aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (d) The programme of indigenous production of 100 seater passenger aircraft is still in the stage of conceptualization.

Corporatization of airports

2. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved corporatization of the airports and if so, the details thereof; and

(b) the details of airports which are likely to be corporatized during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India has decided to corporatise the airports at Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Calcutta and the new airport to be constructed at Bangalore. AAI is in the process of appointing financial and legal consultants to advice AAI on the modalities and extent of private sector participation and related issues.

Foreign participation in management of Airports

3. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a